

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor of California State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814

## Dear Governor Brown:

Last week the California Legislature passed AB 1213, the California Bobcat Protection Act of 2013. I am writing to you today on behalf of my constituent Tom O'Key, who has been a leader in the movement to save the bobcats near Joshua Tree National Park, and many others in my district who have championed this cause and would like to ask you to sign this important legislation.

The need for this legislation was triggered earlier this year within my Supervisorial district in the community of Joshua Tree, near Joshua Tree National Park, when numerous bobcats were killed just outside the National Park boundary by commercial trappers. Given that under current California law it is legal for trappers to line the boundary of a National Park with traps, kill the park's wildlife, and ship the animals' pelts overseas, California's trapping laws needed to be addressed.

AB 1213 has been an important step in bringing California's wildlife law into conformance with the values of the residents of this state and modern wildlife management principles, while at the same time protecting the wildlife that inhabit our great National Parks. This bill would ensure that bobcats are protected for the benefit of all Californians by establishing a no-trapping buffer zone around Joshua Tree National Park as well as other national parks, national monuments, state parks and wildlife refuges in California. AB 1213 would also require trappers to have written permission from a landowner before catching a bobcat on their private property.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing of the bill's enactment soon.

Sincerely.

James C. Ramos

San Bernardino County Supervisor

JR:cc